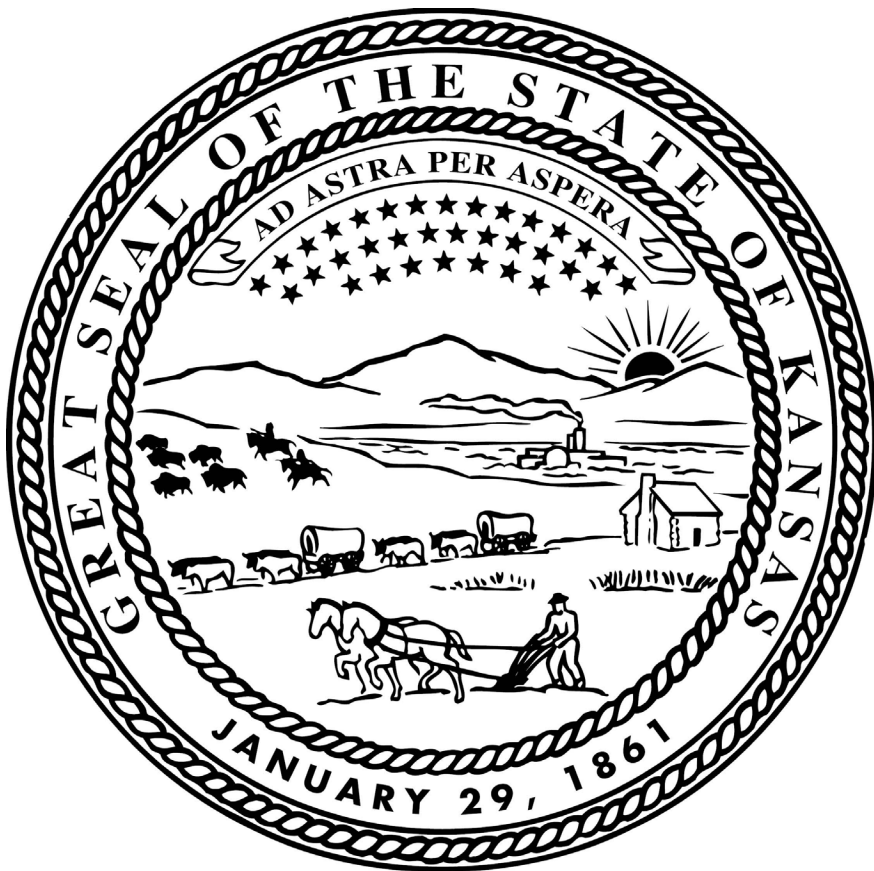


Provided by the Office
of Secretary of State
Kris W. Kobach



Visit
www.sos.ks.gov/resources/kansas_kids.html
for more Kansas facts and fun!

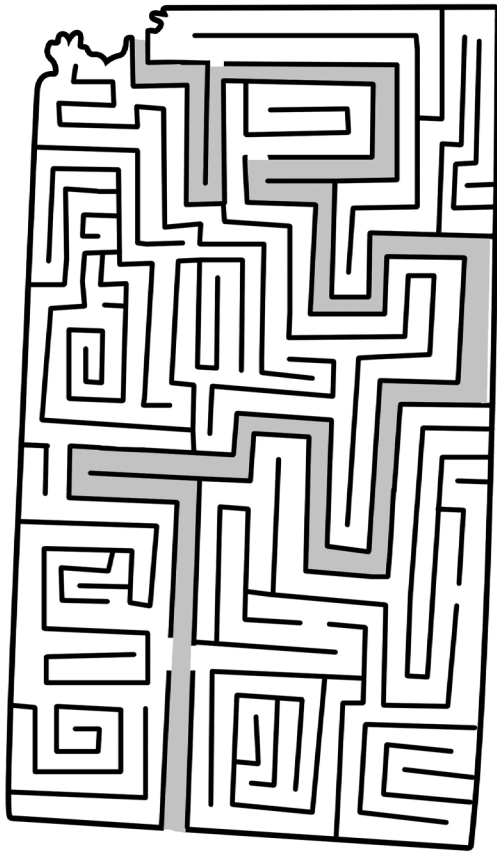
KANSAS FUN BOOK



On May 25, 1861, the legislators of Kansas established the **Great Seal** that the state uses to this day. In the resolution, they described it:

“The east is represented by the rising sun, in the right-hand corner of the seal; to the left of it, commerce is represented by a river and a steamboat; in the foreground, agriculture is represented as the basis of the future prosperity of the state, by a settler’s cabin and a man plowing with a pair of horses; beyond this is a train of ox-wagons, going west; in the background is seen a herd of buffalo, retreating, pursued by two Indians, on horseback.”

Kansas’ state motto, “ad astra per aspera,” is Latin for “to the stars through difficulties” and sits above 34 stars, which represents Kansas’ position as the 34th state to enter the Union.



Math Problems

This year, Kansas is celebrating its sesquicentennial. That makes it how many years old? **150**. That means that Kansas entered the Union on this year: **1861**. The state of Kansas is how many square miles in size? **82,277**. From east to west, how many miles long is Kansas? **211**. Mount Sunflower is the highest point in the state. How many feet tall does it stand? **4,039**.

Hometowns

Barry Sanders, **Wichita**
Melissa Etheridge,
Leavenworth
Charlie Parker, **Kansas**
City
Amelia Earhart,
Atchison
Russell Stover, **Alton**
Annette Bening, **Topeka**
Buster Keaton, **Piqua**
Dennis Hopper, **Dodge**
City
Paul Rudd, **Lenexa**
Langston Hughes,
Lawrence

Crossword

Across
1. Langston
7. Superman
8. Dorothy
10. Wheat
11. Amelia
12. Buster

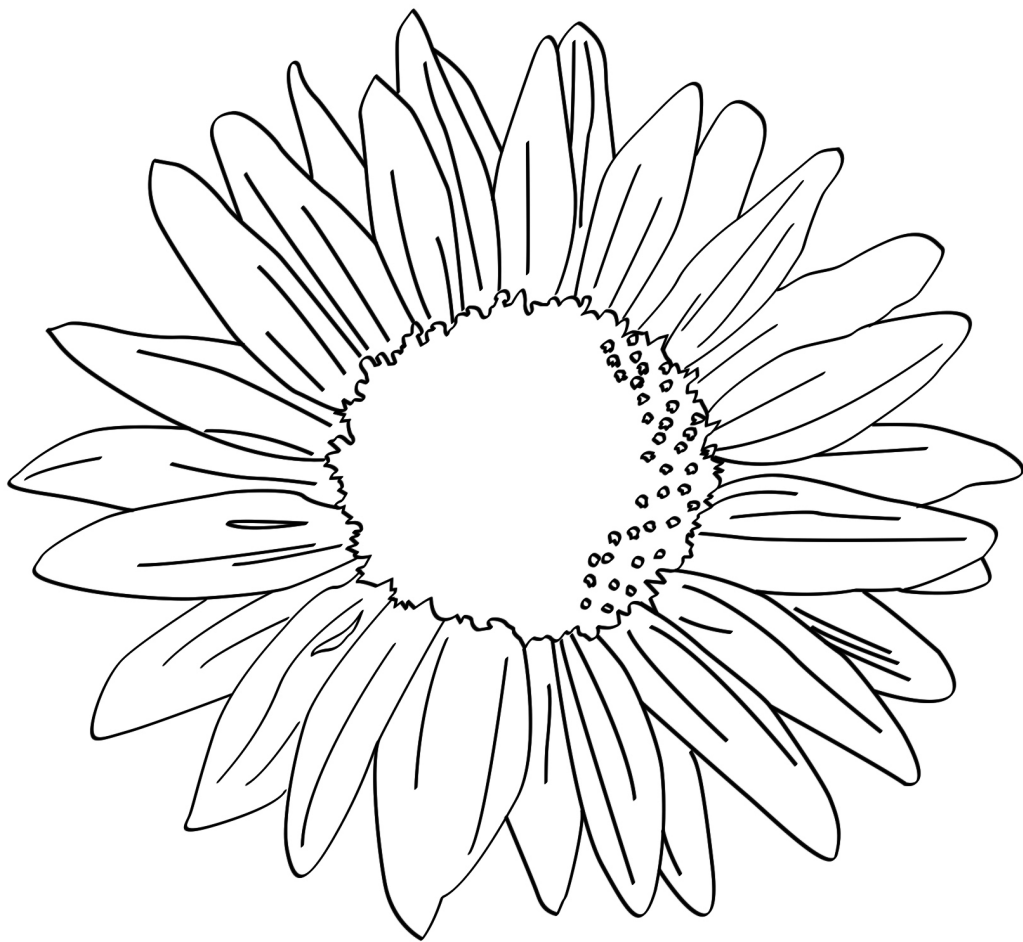
Down
2. Naismith
3. Tree
4. Meadowlark
5. Riley
6. Wichita
9. Home

C O F D W I C H I T A
H M A N H A T T A N N
W C A E L O N K J O L
N S A L I N A L S F O
A B I L E N E R L O
J R A S E L E B I O D
X U T F R H C N O W G
E S J C T R P U A R C
C E M I O D I K N G I
N L A S P U T H S L T
E L A T E P O R A N Y
R O U O K N L A S Y N
W G R E A T B E N D S
A K J Y E T G I L S C
L E B N A E H T A L O

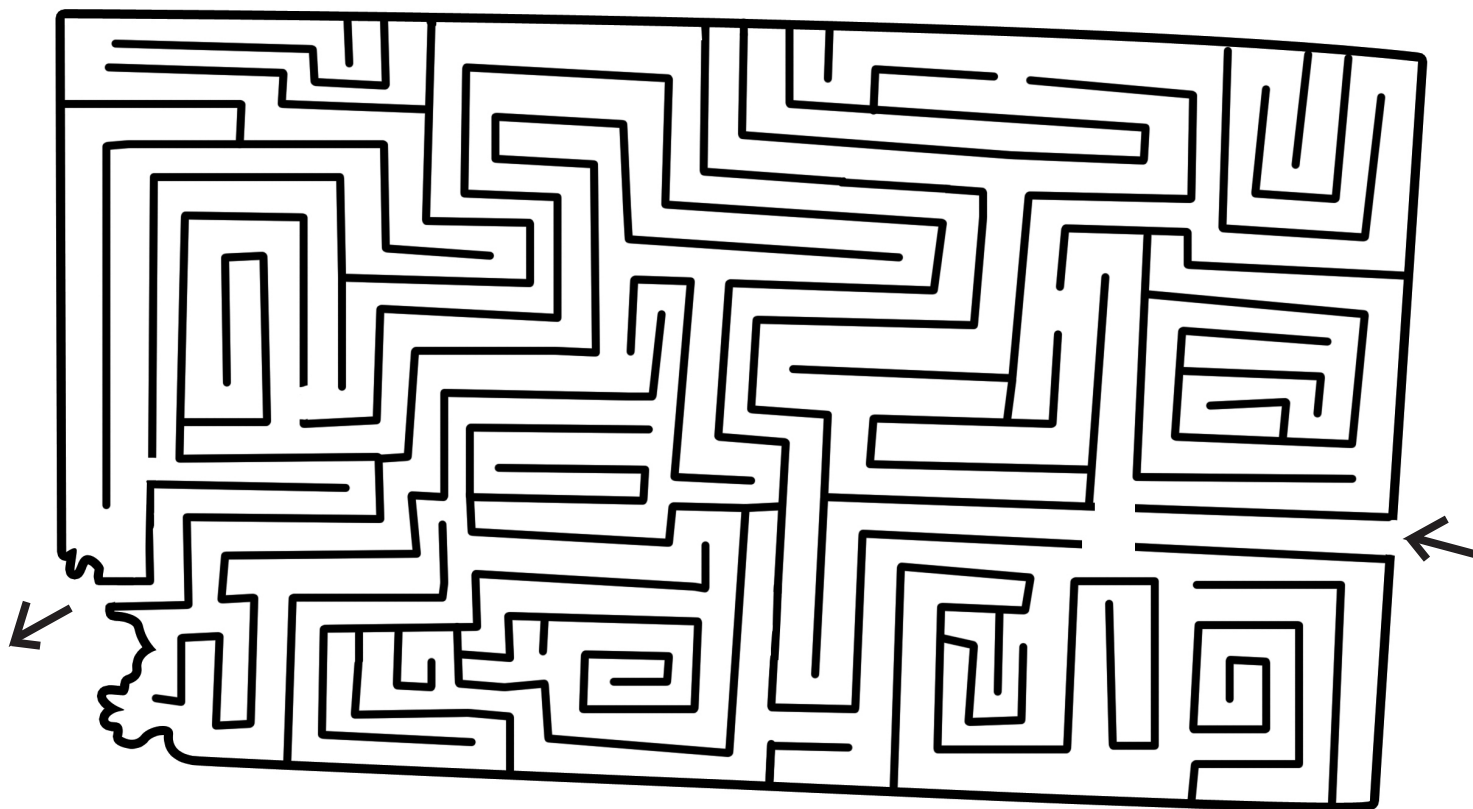
True or False

1. True. 2. False. Honeybees are brown and yellow in color.
3. False. Six players on the first U.S. Olympic basketball team were from McPherson. 4. True.
5. False. Kansas is one of the states in the Great Plains region.
6. True. 7. True. 8. True 9. False. Less than 1% of Kansas is covered in water. 10. True.

Solutions to the puzzles!



The state flower is the **sunflower**. The center of the flower is made up of many florets, or small flowers, and grow naturally in a beautiful spiral formation. Its seeds make oil, butter, and a great snack for birds and people!



Using your math skills, learn some Kansas facts!

This year, Kansas is celebrating its sesquicentennial. That makes it how many years old?

$$25 \times 6 = \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}$$

That means that Kansas entered the Union in this year:

$$2011 - 150 = \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}$$

The state of Kansas is how many square miles in size?

$$19,723 + 62,554 = \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}, \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}$$

From east to west, how many miles long is Kansas?

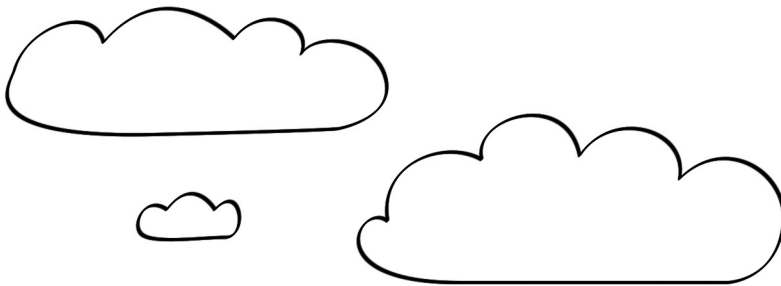
$$(50 \times 4) + 11 = \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}$$

Mount Sunflower is the highest point in the state. How many feet tall does it stand?

$$8,078 \div 2 = \underline{\quad}, \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad} \underline{\quad}$$

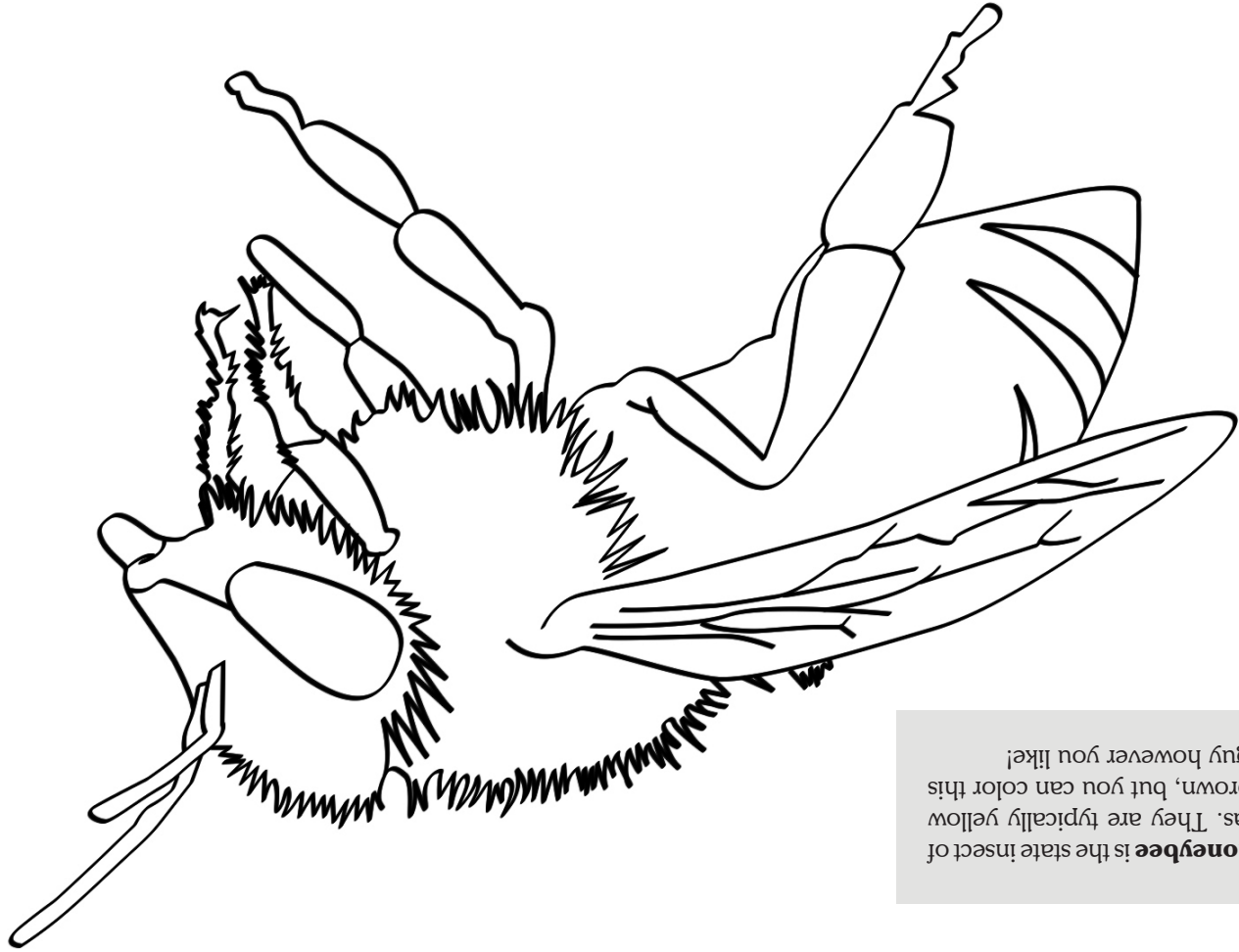
Now that you've learned so much about the state of Kansas, give these true or false questions a shot. Some of these you've learned, and for some, you might have to guess:

1. President Dwight D. Eisenhower lived in Abilene as a young boy. T / F
2. Honeybees are black and yellow in color. T / F
3. Six players on the first U.S. Olympic football team were from McPherson. T / F
4. The Great Seal of Kansas features horses, oxen, and buffalo. T / F
5. Kansas is one of the states in the Great Lakes region. T / F
6. Four states border Kansas: Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado. T / F
7. American buffalo are also known as bison. T / F
8. Because the climate and soil are right for growing crops, Kansas is known as being in the Breadbasket of America. T / F
9. 2% of Kansas is covered in water. T / F
10. The name of Kansas comes from the Kansa tribe. T / F



Kansas lies in a region of the country known as the **Great Plains**. Because of its fertile soil and right climate for crops, Kansas grows much of the wheat and sunflowers used in the United States. Draw what you think you'd find on a Kansas prairie—tall grass, cows, a town, or maybe even your family on a picnic!

The **honeebee** is the state insect of Kansas. They are typically yellow and brown, but you can color this little guy however you like!

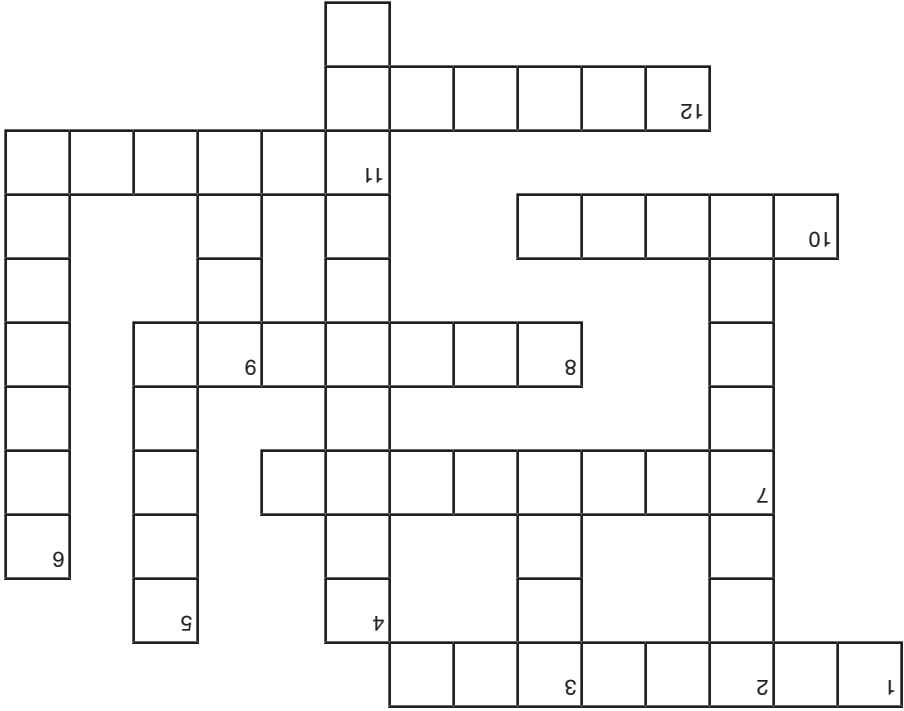


Across

1. African-American poet Hughes
7. Also known as Clark Kent
8. The heroine of Wizard of Oz
10. Kansas' most plentiful grain
11. Renowned aviator Earhart
12. Silent film comedian Keaton

Down

2. Basketball's inventor and the founder of KU's team
3. Cottonwood is a type of _____
4. The state bird, yellow in color
5. This fort is home to the oldest division in the Army
6. By population, the largest city in Kansas
9. Kansas' state song, "_____ on the Range"



This intimidating animal is the **American buffalo**, adopted by Kansas as its state animal in 1955. Also known as bison, these animals would graze the grasslands in massive packs, before overhunting brought the species near extinction.

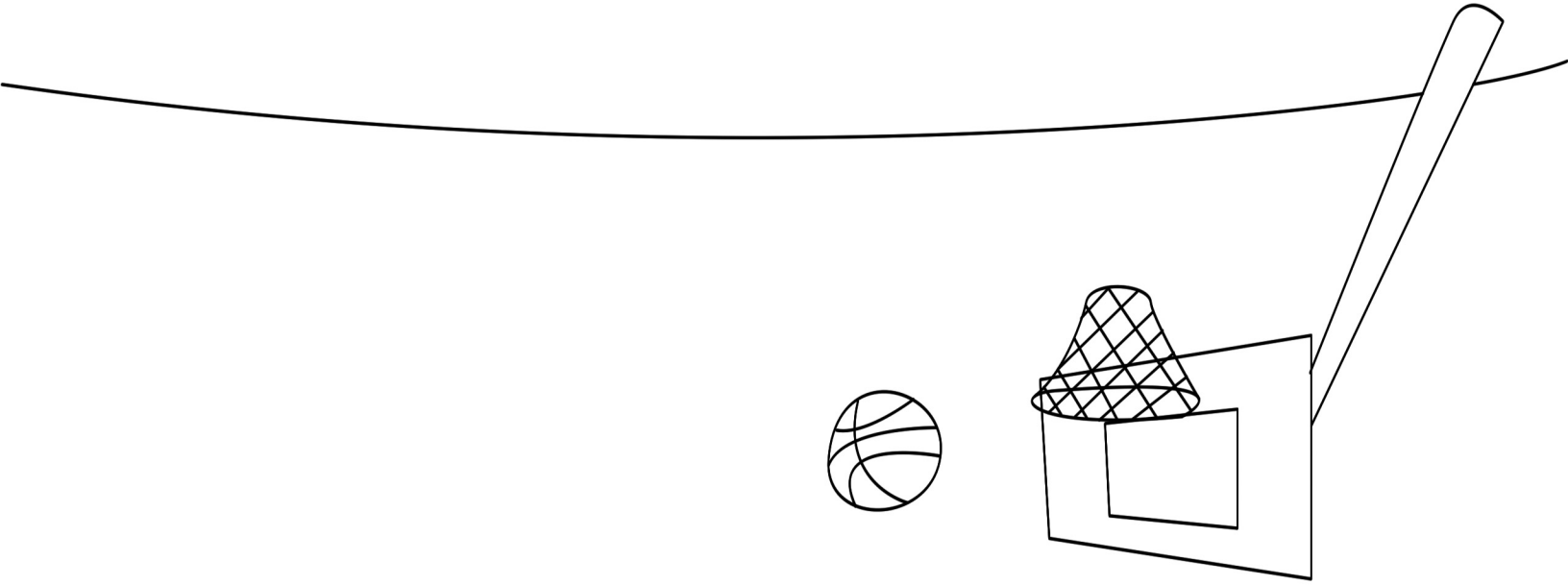


Below are some interesting facts about various towns in Kansas. See if you can find those towns in the word search to the right!

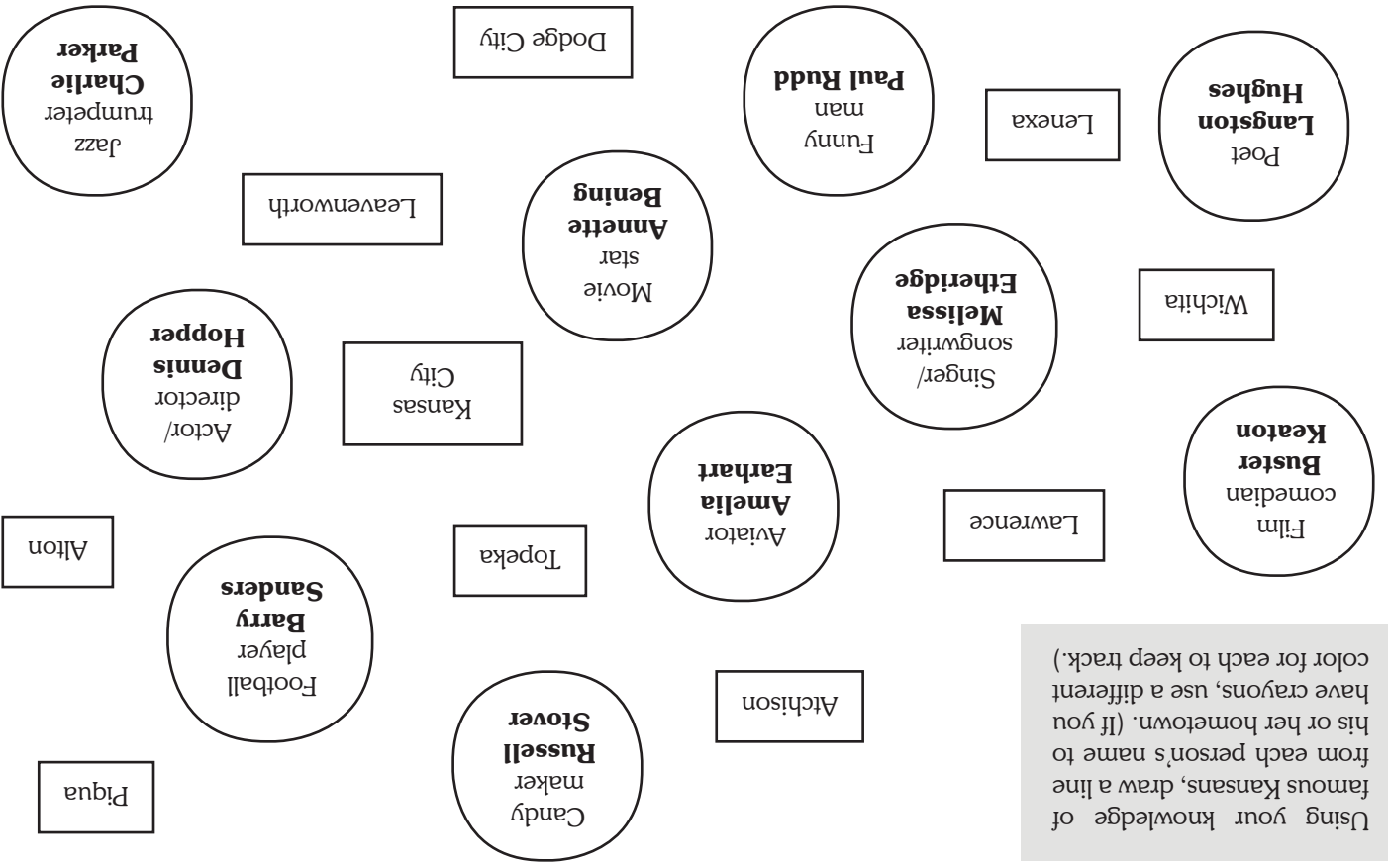
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower called **Abilene** home.
- From 1876 to 1878, famous lawman Wyatt Earp kept the peace in **Dodge City**.
- Oscar Micheaux, regarded as the first African-American filmmaker, grew up in **Great Bend**.
- The town of **Hays** holds an annual Oktoberfest to celebrate its German heritage.
- Kansas Jayhawks are found in **Lawrence**. Their in-state rivals are the Wildcats of Kansas State, in **Manhattan**.
- Six of the 13 players on the first United States Olympic basketball team hailed from **McPherson**.
- Travelers often stopped in **Olathe** before heading west on the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails.
- Senators Bob Dole and Arlen Specter are both from **Russell**, and both ran for president in 1996.
- Astronaut Steven Hawley, who flew on five spaceflights, considers **Salina** his hometown.
- The capital of Kansas is **Topeka**, which means “a good place to dig potatoes” in native tribal languages.
- Because of its importance in the aircraft industry, **Wichita** is known as “the Air Capital of the World.”

C	O	F	D	W	I	C	H	I	T	A
H	M	A	N	H	A	T	T	A	N	N
W	C	A	E	L	O	N	K	J	O	L
N	S	A	L	I	N	A	L	S	F	D
A	B	I	L	E	N	E	R	R	L	O
J	R	A	S	E	L	E	B	I	O	D
X	U	T	F	R	H	C	N	O	W	G
G	S	P	R	P	I	A	N	K	E	E
E	S	J	C	T	R	P	U	A	R	C
C	E	M	I	O	D	I	K	N	G	I
N	L	A	S	P	U	T	H	S	L	T
E	L	A	T	E	P	O	R	A	N	Y
R	O	U	O	K	N	L	A	S	Y	N
W	G	R	E	A	T	B	E	N	D	S
A	K	J	Y	E	T	G	I	L	S	C
L	E	B	N	A	E	H	T	A	L	O

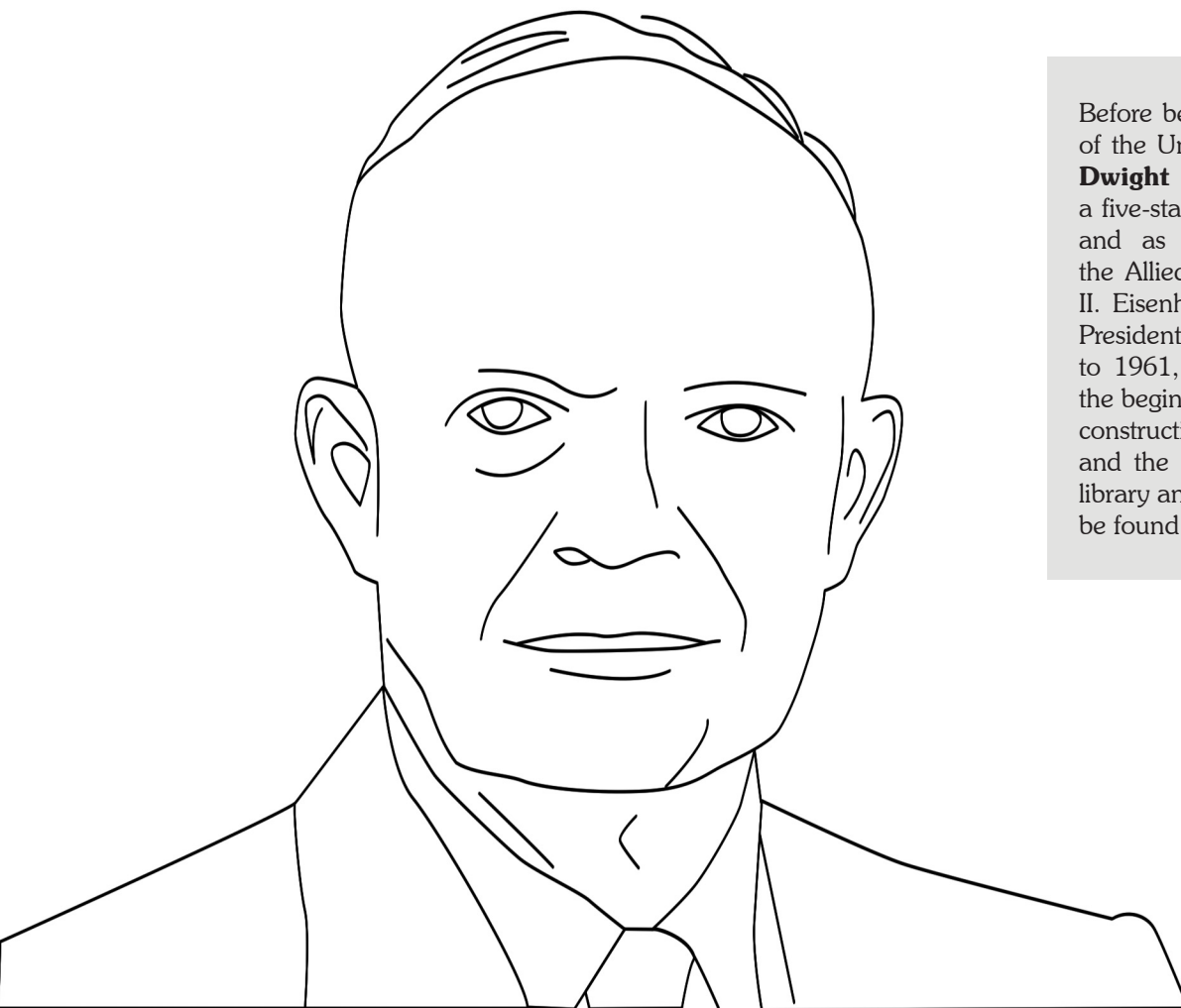
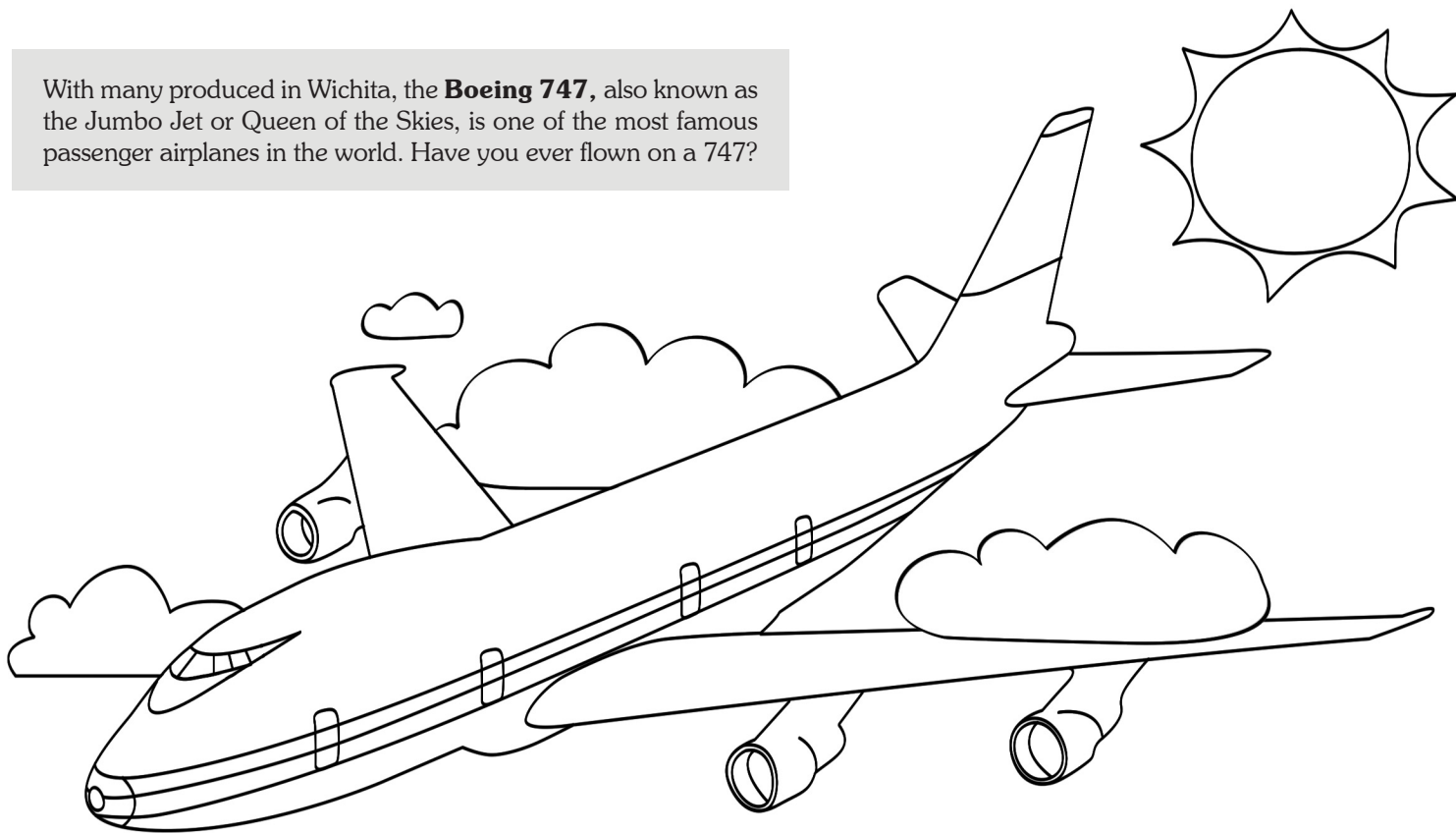
Basketball is an important sport to the state of Kansas. The creator of the game, James Naismith, spent much of his life as a coach and teacher at the University of Kansas. Thanks to another Kansas coach, Phog Allen, basketball became an Olympic sport in 1936. There, a U.S. team featuring six players from McPherson won gold medals—presented by Naismith. Draw yourself and your friends playing basketball on this court. Is it in a big arena, or your neighborhood park?



Using your knowledge of famous Kansans, draw a line from each person's name to his or her hometown. (If you have crayons, use a different color for each to keep track.)



With many produced in Wichita, the **Boeing 747**, also known as the Jumbo Jet or Queen of the Skies, is one of the most famous passenger airplanes in the world. Have you ever flown on a 747?



Before becoming the 34th President of the United States, Abilene native **Dwight D. Eisenhower** served as a five-star general in the U.S. Army, and as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II. Eisenhower served two terms as President, spanning the years of 1953 to 1961, during which he oversaw the beginning of the Space Race, the construction of the highway system, and the end of the Korean War. A library and museum in his honor can be found in Abilene.

The fictional character of **Johnny Kaw** was created by Kansas State University horticulture professor George Fillingmer in 1955 as part of Manhattan's centennial celebration. Johnny's mythical adventures included carving the Mississippi River, digging the Grand Canyon with Finn McCool, building the Rocky Mountains, and inventing sunflowers.

These stories were first published in the *Manhattan Mercury*, and then collected into a book. A Kansas State art professor, Elmer Tomash, drew illustrations to accompany the text, and conceived of the massive sculpture of Johnny, which was built in 1966 and still stands in Manhattan City Park.

